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# Your Hometown Clean Water Tour

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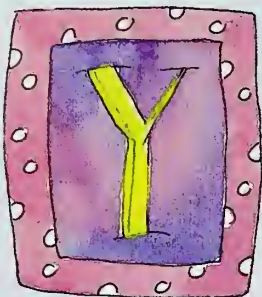
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Bonnie Mitchell 15





**You and everybody in your hometown depend on water. But water is like many other things that we depend on—we have to take care of it. How? You're about to meet some mighty fine folks who'll show you. But before you say your how-do-you-do's, let's find out how much you already know. Here are a few questions that will test your H<sub>2</sub>O IQ...**

**1**

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn after you mow is a good, natural way to fertilize and minimize use of chemicals that could contaminate water. True or False

**2**

Attracting birds to your home is an excellent way to get rid of pesky insects and minimize use of pesticides that could enter your town's water supply. True or False







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**1** Leaving grass clippings on your lawn after you mow is a good, natural way to fertilize and minimize use of chemicals that could contaminate water. True or False

**2** Attracting birds to your home is an excellent way to get rid of pesky insects and minimize use of pesticides that could enter your town's water supply. True or False

**3** Spreading mulch on your garden keeps the soil moist and saves water. True or False

**4** A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day. True or False

**5** Rainwater flowing down a hill near your home can damage your property. True or False

**6** Taking your used motor oil to an oil recycling center is better for our water than dumping the oil down a storm drain. True or False

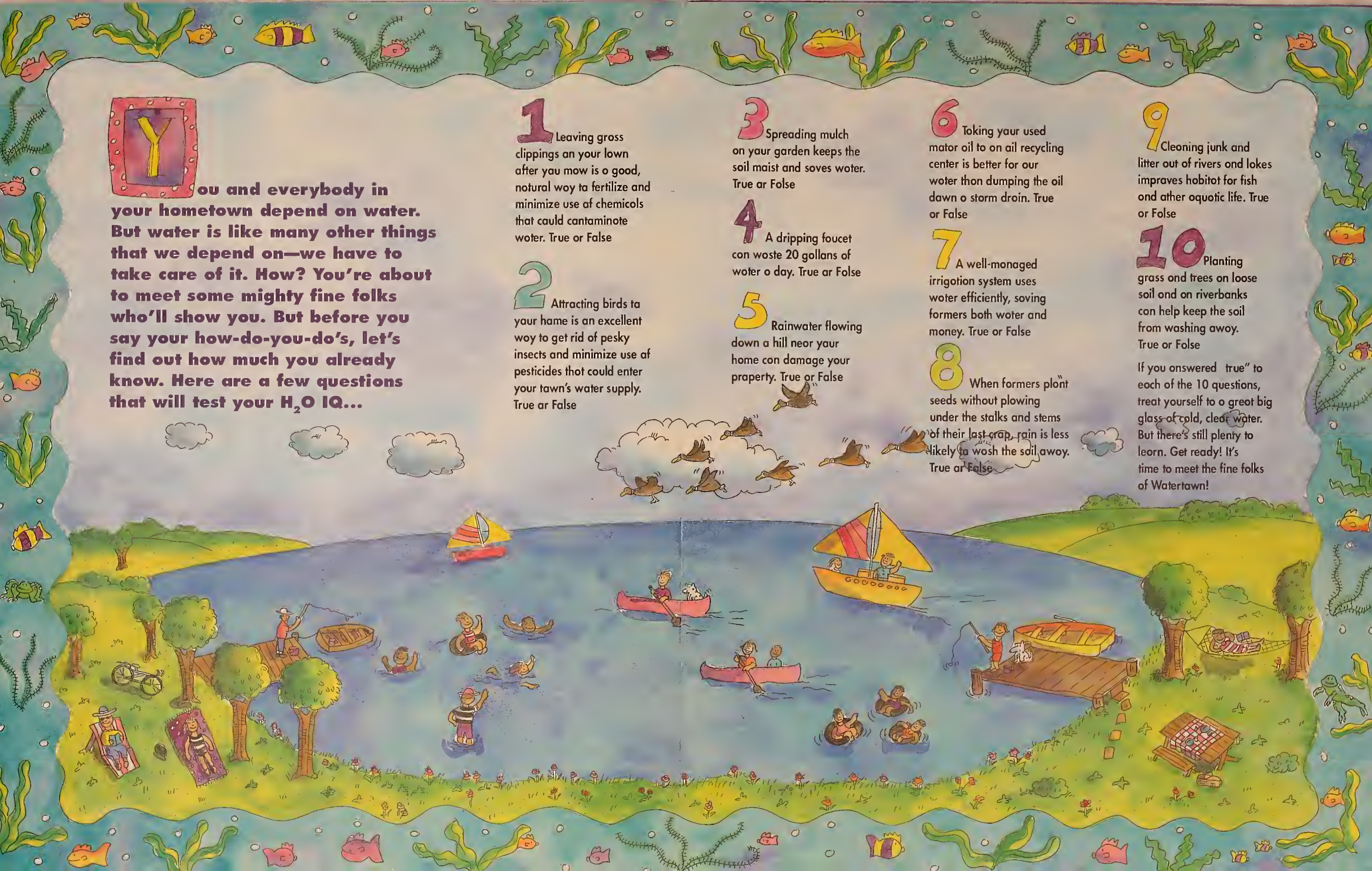
**7** A well-managed irrigation system uses water efficiently, saving farmers both water and money. True or False

**8** When farmers plant seeds without plowing under the stalks and stems of their last crop, rain is less likely to wash the soil away. True or False

**9** Cleaning junk and litter out of rivers and lakes improves habitat for fish and other aquatic life. True or False

**10** Planting grass and trees on loose soil and on riverbanks can help keep the soil from washing away. True or False


If you answered "true" to each of the 10 questions, treat yourself to a great big glass of cold, clear water. But there's still plenty to learn. Get ready! It's time to meet the fine folks of Watertown!











The banks of Lake Watertown weren't always beautiful. They used to be covered with dastardly, dirty debris. Everybody in Watertown got together and cleaned up the banks. They planted trees and shrubs that look nice and keep the soil from eroding into the lake. Now everyone says that the banks of Lake Watertown "shore" look pretty.

Chuck the Duck rules the roost here at Watertown Wetland. He knows that people in Watertown do everything they can to keep his home clean. After all, wetlands filter out things that people don't want in their water. Chuck's wetland gives him a nice place to live and plenty of food to eat. No wonder Chuck thinks that caring for water really fills the bill!

Everybody in Watertown hopes you had a good visit. And they hope that you picked up some pointers that you can use to take good care of the water in your hometown. To learn more about conserving water and keeping it clean, contact your local United States Department of Agriculture office. It's listed in the telephone book under U.S. Government.



# Protecting Water Quality is a Local Responsibility

## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

Know where your drinking water comes from and how it gets to you.

Find out more about the watershed or groundwater source supplying your water. Be alert to land uses or other activities that could threaten your water supply.

Attend local planning and zoning meetings. Make sure that decisions include water quality protection.

Be active in your school system. See if environmental and conservation issues are part of your child's curriculum.

For further information, call your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. It's listed in the telephone book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture.



*Issued October 1993  
Slightly revised March 1998*

**Program Aid 1587**

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